

Application No. 10/067,580
Amendment "A" dated June 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed April 5, 2005

REMARKS

The Non-final Office Action, mailed April 5, 2005, considered claims 1-44. Claims 1-4, 8-13, 16, 17, 19-24, 26, 27, 29-33, 35-38, and 40-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Freund et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0167405). Claims 5-7, 14, 15, 18, 25, 34, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freund and further in view of Lipe et al. (US Patent No. 5,748,980).¹

Objections, corresponding to certain portions of the specification and drawings were also made, but have been overcome by amendments made to paragraphs [0009] and [0026] of the specification. No changes were actually needed for the drawings.

The term infrastructure was also found by the examiner to be objectionable. By this paper, this term has been replaced with the term network environment. Support for this is found in paragraphs 8 and 32, among other places throughout the specification.

By this paper, claims 1-28 and 42 have been amended, claims 29-41 have been cancelled, and new claims 45-56 have been added, such that claims 1-28 and 42-56 remain pending, and of which claims 1 and 42 are the only independent claims at issue.² Support for the claim amendments and new claims is found throughout the specification and previously filed claims (claim 29), including, but not limited to the disclosure found in paragraphs [0047], [0048], [0050], and [0062]-[0065].

As described in the specification, and as reflected above in the claims, the present invention is directed to embodiments identifying characteristics associated with the network environment a computer system is connected to, so as to reduce the configuration information that needs to be manually entered.

Claim 1, for example, recites such a method, which includes connecting the computer system to a network environment from among the number of network environments and receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the network environment. The parameters are then combined to generate an identifier that is used to select characteristics associated with the network environment the computer system is connected

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

² Many of the claim amendments have been made to promote consistency of claim language and have not been made to restrict the scope of the claims, such as the amendments changing the term infrastructure to network environment.

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to and that are utilized to modify the configuration of the computer system, and wherein modifying the configuration of the computer system includes reconfiguring features of the computer system other than security features.

Claim 42 is directed to a corresponding computer program product for implementing the method recited in claim 1.

As further recited in the claims, modifying the configuration information can include loading and unloading drivers (claim 45), ceasing a NIC connection and beginning a modem connection (claim 46), changing a favorites list (claim 47) and changing one or more of a default language, currency symbols or other country dependent software settings (claim 56).

The recited methods can also include detecting a change in the network environment due to detecting from GPS data that the computer system has crossed an international border (claim 56).

As also clarified by the new claims, the invention also includes embodiments in which the recited parameters include a variety of different types of parameters. For example, the parameters can include latency information (claim 48), bandwidth information (claim 49), parameters associated with a keyboard, monitor, printer or peripheral device (claims 50-53), parameters associated with expansion card, memory or mass storage capabilities of a docking station (claims 54-55).

With regard to the forgoing claimed embodiments, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention. In particular, while Freund generally relates to systems and methods for automatically detecting when a computing device is plugged into a new network and for evaluating changes in a network configuration (Abstract), Freund fails to disclose or suggest a method wherein various parameters used to generate an identifier and ultimately select characteristics that are used to modify configuration features other than security features, as claimed, particularly when considering the various types of parameters that can be received and the various different types of configuration features that are modified according to the recited claims.

Instead, the cited disclosure in Freund appears directed to creating and storing network profiles to facilitate the assignment of the networks to trusted zones, for determining which security settings will be adopted for the network that the user is presently connected to. (Abstract, Summary). In fact, as described in the background section, Freund appears to be

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directed at specifically overcoming network security problems. Freund does not appear to disclose or suggest any other method, similar to the claimed embodiments, in which configuration information other than security information is modified.

The cited disclosure in Lipe, which was cited for the teaching of a docking station, also fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention, even in combination with Freund, for at least the same reasons.

Although only the independent claims have been addressed at this time, it will be appreciated that, for at least the reasons provided above, the other rejections and assertions of record with respect to the independent and dependent claims are now moot, and therefore need not be addressed individually. However, in this regard, it should be appreciated that Applicants do not necessarily acquiesce to any assertions in the Office Action that are not specifically addressed above, and hereby reserve the right to challenge those assertions at any appropriate time in the future, should it arise, including any official notice.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 22 day of June, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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